



State of Idaho

October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

Idaho is comprised of 82,413 square miles. The state geography varies from high desert in the southern region to beautiful forests on rugged mountains in the north. In 1997, there were 15 persons per square mile. By 2007, that number had grown to 18.

From April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2007, Idaho's population has continually ranked among the fastest growing states, increasing by nearly 16 percent, or more than 200,000 people.

From 2006 to 2007, the state's population grew 2.4 percent, 35,500 people, to 1,499,402, while the U.S. population grew by 1 percent. While Idaho remains as the 39th most populated state in the nation, the Gem state ranked 14th in the number of people moving here from mid-2006 to mid-2007, accounting for the majority of the population increase. Over 55 percent of the growth was the result of people moving from other states or countries, the ninth highest percentage among all the states. Just over 80 percent of the 35,500 increase occurred in the six counties with populations over 70,000 – Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Kootenai and Twin Falls.

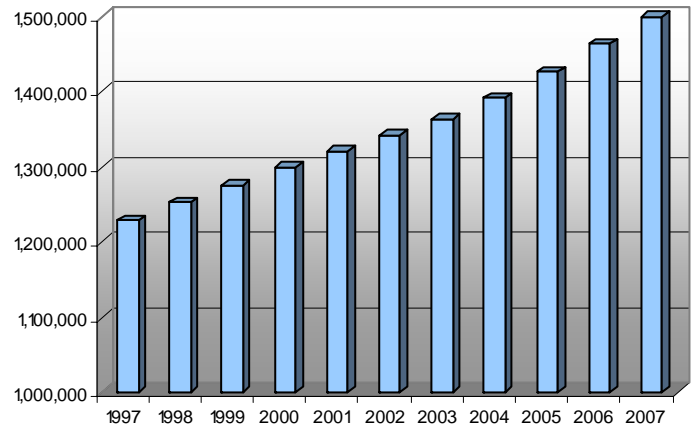
Idaho's economy remains among the best in the nation despite slower growth since spring. This continues to influence the immigration and the state's population growth.

Labor Force & Employment

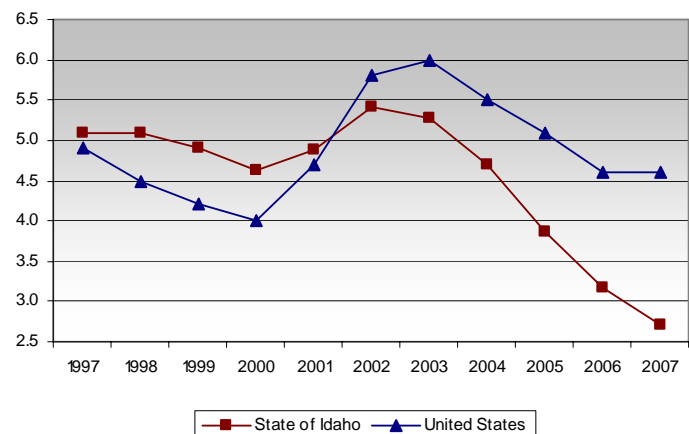
Idaho's labor force has grown 20 percent over the past 10 years. Following a recession in the 2000s, economic expansion beginning in 2005 provided more opportunities for Idaho's working age population. The civilian labor force is a count of people 16 years of age and older who live in Idaho and are either working or looking for work.

Since 2002 Idaho's average annual unemployment rate has been below the national level. Unlike two previous economic recessions, Idaho was not able to avoid the large number of layoffs which began in early 2001. By 2002, the number unemployed reached a record high of 37,042 while 646,142 persons were working, resulting in an unemployment rate of 5.4 percent. The economy began to rebound in 2004 and by 2007 the unemployment rate had fallen to a record low 2.7 percent.

Total employment was at a record high of 733,652, and the



Unemployment Rates



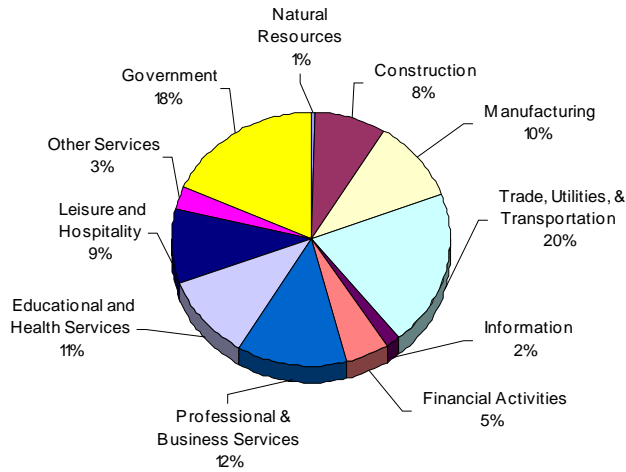
number unemployed dropped to the lowest level since 1978 at 20,484.

The growth in the number of nonfarm jobs, a count of jobs and not people, had no growth in 2002 as a result of the economic recession. The number of jobs began to rebound in 2004. In 2006 over 27,000 jobs were added. The largest area of growth was construction which has added 6,900 jobs last year. The largest job loss was in the information sector due to the reclassification of a business from information to administrative services. The pie chart on the next page illustrates the distribution of jobs in Idaho by major industry.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	757,125	759,267
Total Employment	736,921	721,594
Unemployed	20,204	37,673
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	629,839	647,873	652,884	661,599	677,855	683,184	688,999	703,851	725,216	741,708	754,137
Unemployment	31,835	33,125	31,922	30,665	33,039	37,042	36,372	33,105	28,024	23,440	20,484
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.3	4.7	3.9	3.2	2.7
Employment	598,004	614,748	620,962	630,934	644,816	646,142	652,627	670,746	697,192	718,268	733,652

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2006



Employment & Wages

Covered employment and wage data reflects the industrial changes in the last 10 years and one previous year. In 2006 there were 51,895 private sector establishments that provided 532,849 jobs in Idaho, an increase of nearly 2,800 establishments from 2005. The healthy economic conditions contributed to this growth.

The average covered wage in 2006 was \$32,568, up 5.6 percent. The largest increase occurred in the mining sector with wages increasing 13.2 percent. Professional & business services had the second largest major industry increase in wages at 9.2 percent. This increase was driven by a 28.2 percent increase in management of companies and enterprises. The mining sector continued to have the fewest jobs and highest average wage at \$51,692. In spite of an increase in both jobs and wages, the leisure and hospitality sector continued to have the lowest average wage at \$12,571.

Major Private Employers

Albertsons Inc.
 Battelle Energy Alliance
 BYU-Idaho
 CH2M-WG Idaho
 Fred Meyer Inc/Kroger
 Hewlett Packard Inc
 J. R. Simplot Co.
 Micron Technology, Inc.
 Potlatch Corp.
 St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
 St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
 Wal-Mart
 Wells Fargo Bank

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Retail Salesperson	\$6.90
Cashiers	\$6.15
Office Clerk	\$8.12
General Manager	\$15.03
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$9.67
Registered Nurse	\$18.38
Customer Service Representatives	\$8.49
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	\$7.36
Esc Sec & Admin Assistants	\$10.75
Food Prep. & Server	\$6.02
Janitor & Cleaner	\$6.84
Laborer & Material Handler	\$6.66
Elementary School Teacher	\$40,563 (annual)
Secondary School Teacher	\$41,314 (annual)
Construction Labors	\$8.60

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	507,848	\$23,968	643,702	\$32,611	644,354	\$32,568
Agriculture	19,809	\$18,563	21,746	\$25,107	21,762	\$25,114
Mining	2,993	\$35,936	2,363	\$50,915	2,374	\$51,692
Construction	32,309	\$26,700	52,144	\$33,599	52,201	\$33,560
Manufacturing	67,481	\$32,887	65,943	\$45,280	65,886	\$45,278
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	107,573	\$21,438	126,369	\$30,195	126,436	\$30,240
Information	7,587	\$27,562	10,591	\$38,198	10,595	\$38,227
Financial Activities	21,647	\$26,703	29,817	\$40,003	29,848	\$40,036
Professional and Business Services	47,348	\$28,957	81,490	\$39,279	81,392	\$39,320
Educational and Health Services	44,663	\$24,564	67,017	\$32,063	67,072	\$32,047
Leisure and Hospitality	48,854	\$8,988	59,552	\$12,584	59,599	\$12,571
Other Services	13,396	\$16,761	15,641	\$22,725	15,684	\$22,634
Government	93,039	\$25,430	111,029	\$33,503	111,504	\$33,213

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714